An Exact *Narrative* and *Description* of the Wonderfull and Stupendious *Fire-works* in Honour of Their Majesties *Coronations*, and for the High Entertainment of Their Majesties, the Nobility, and City of *London*; made on the *Thames*, and perform'd to the Admiration and Amazement of the Spectators, on *April* the 24. 1685.

NEver was any thing with greater Expectation attended, and with more wonder and Applause perform'd, then were those Miraculous and highest strains of Art, the *Coronation-Fire-works*: It was pre-supposed indeed and concluded by the most, that nothing mean, indifferent, and easie would be exhibited on so Glorious an occasion, and before so Royal an Assembly. But it was done beyond all Thought, and it was scarce possible for the Fancy of any man that had not before seen of the kind, to form an *Idæa* of a thing at once so Dreadful and Delightful, or to believe that the Art of man could attain to so extraordinary a height and pitch of Perfection as was expressed in them; the wearisomness that the Fatigue of those Glorious Prosessions and stately Ceremonies of the *Coronations* had bred in their Majesties, caused them to be deferr'd till the next Evening, which were designed with (as it were) the exactest Act of Magnificence to have clos'd the Grandeur of that Great day. Never seem'd Day-light so tedious, or Night so slow, as that for there were them that from Two took places, and sat in expectation of what was not to be Acted till almost Ten. But between five and six *London* seem'd to have disembogued and emptied its Inhabitants into the Boats and on the Shoars of *Thames*, the prospect of *Frost Fair* reviving in those endless multitudes that crowded and covered it. The Tyde was out, which hapened well for the Rable, of whom many else would have been drown'd by Accidental slips and press of the People, which now were only Dirtyed: *Squibs*, *Roskets*, *Serpents*, and what else of *Fire-works* the Boys and Rable could reach to, were the Divertisement and Dread of the People, till the long wish'd hour arrived. At length between Nine and Ten their Majesties, with a Numerous Train of Nobility, came into the Galleries of *Whitehall*, just against which, about the middle of *Thames*, lay the Principalest part of the *Fire-works*, and straight in a line beyond, near the further Shoar, lay the other smallest part of them; the Figure and manner of them as they stood before they were Fired, was thus, two large and long Lighters were joyn'd together, and made steady and firm with Planks and Anchors upon them, at about ten yards distance from each other, on them were erected two Pyramidical Pillars covered on the sides next *Whitehall* with bright *Latten Plates*, fill'd all and stuffed with *Fire-works*; between these two Pyramids, near their tops, was placed a Figure of the *Sun*, of bright and well polished *Brass*, next below which hung a great *Cross*, and beneath that a *Crown*, all stufft with *Fire-works*: A little wide of which, and something before the Pyramids, were plac'd the Statues of the two Gyants of *Guild-hall*, in lively Colours and Proportions facing *Whitehall*, the backs of which were all fill'd with *Firey-Materials*, as well as the Hallows and vacant spaces of the Lighters. This was the manner and Figure of the Principalest part of the *Fire-works*, which lay in the middle of *Thames* before they were Fired. The other smaller part of them near the further Shoar, was only one Lighter, in which stood five Beacons as it were; these were scarce known or regarded before they were Fired. No sooner was their Majesties come into the Galleries of *Whitehall*, but loud Acclamations of Joy proclaim'd their Arrival, which Rowling and Re-Ecchoing from both Shoars, almost from *London-Bridge* to *Lambeth*, helped to give an estimate of that wonderful Multitude and Confluence of People to the Ear, which Night and Darkness had refused to the Eye. Scarce were the redoubled Shouts of Joy ended, and a general Silence through the Earnestness of Expectation and Intentiveness of what was presently to succeed made; but from the prin-

pa'est

*EB65. L9546. 685e

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY
MAY 23, 1913
SUBSCRIPTION FOR
ENGLISH HISTORICAL TRACTS

paleſt part of the *Fire-works* in the midſt of the *Thames*, with a Horrid Impetuoſity and Noiſe, above being able to be parallel'd by the beating of a Prodigious Wind on a Thick Grove of Trees, or by Cataracts and Falls of mighty Waters: A ſtupendious Torrent of Fire, conſiſting of many hundred Globulous forms of Fiery matter, to the wonderful Aſtoniſhment and Dread of the Spectators, broke Perpendicularly upward, and roſe to ſo aſtoniſhing a height, that by reaſon of the convexity of the Horiſon, like a *Summers Sun* growing to Noon, though they roſe perpendicularly upward, they ſeem'd to over-hang and threaten all. *Lord have Mercy upon us*, was then the cry of all that had not ſeen of the kind; even the ſtouteſt men knew not what to think of ſo dreadful a Deluge of *Fire*; but their Surpriſe was increas'd when with the noiſe of Voleys of Muſquets Shot thoſe new Meteors broke into a ſhower of ten thouſands of *Stars*, and with a Brightneſs that return'd the Day, ſeem'd to be falling on all their Heads; but by an exact proportion and moſt Critical and Judicious weighing of the Strength and Duration of the Matter by thoſe Maſter Artiſts that made them, when to the higheſt pitch they had rais'd the General fear they were extinct. It was really a wonderful effort of Art, and ſeem'd to equal thoſe Natural Prodigies of *Etna* and *Veſuvius*, with the Happy additional Cheapneſs of bating of their ruines and deſolation. Art it ſeems ſo regulating and wiſely husbanding the Materials, as to yield a better Pennyworth of Wonder in affording it without ſuch dear Devaſtations as thoſe of Nature are uſually accompanied with. This firſt Scene of Wonder was followed by divers Iſſues and Salleys of the ſame and different matter; and from the firſt break of the Deluge, till the end of the Sport, which laſted near an hour, the two *Gyants*, the *Crown*, the *Croſs* and the *Sun*, grew all in a light Flame in the Figures deſcrib'd, and burnt without abatement of matter, which was no mean maſter-piece of Art, till the whole Scene was finiſh'd. From the other part of the *Fire-works* alſo, where ſtood five Beacons, burning with the ſame continuance of Flame and Matter; were ſhot out of Granadoes mighty *Balls* of *Fire*, which mounting up into the Air a Prodigious height, with the noiſe of a great Gun, breaking into a thouſand ſmaller Balls of *Fire*, which flying croſs one another, and breaking again with the Reports as it were of many Muſquets, fill'd all the Air with noiſe aud flame. The *Granadoes* threw up alſo *Balls of Fire* of another kind, which breaking with the noiſe of a Cannon, at firſt divided it ſelf into ſo amazingly bright Bodies of *Fire* that they gave a Light for a Minuits ſpace over the *Thames*, and even over all *London* and parts adjoyning, as bright as the Noon-days *Sun* doth, theſe ſorts were reiterated ſeveral times, to the wonder and content, but not Satiety of the Beholders, the Rable being not to be ſatisfied with ſo rare a ſight. When as the laſt and concluding piece of Art from the principal parts of the *Fire-works* into the *Thames*, between them and *Whitehall* ſlope ways gave whole Broadſides of *Fire-works* of ſo particularly ſtrange a Nature, as contrary to the nature of *Fire*, without extinction or abatement of Flame, burnt in the Water they fell into, leap'd up and down in it, and by intermingling their Flames with the Water, and frequently croſſing themſelves by the Hiſſing, Convulſions and flying of the Water, hating its enemies preſence, and to be out-brav'd by what it us'd to conquor; it yielded one of the ſtrangeſt and pleaſanteſt Antick Scenes that mans Heart could covet, or his Eyes enjoy. There was this remarkable property in the *Fire-works*, that were the principal part, and lay in the midſt of the *Thames*; that where as the other were ſhot out of *Granadoes*, theſe roſe to ſo ſtupendious a height, and performed all by their own innate Virtue and Strength, which argued an exactneſs of Art in their compoſition. The Maſter Artiſts that made them were two *High-German Operators*, to whom His Majeſty allows three Hundred Pounds *per Annum*, Penſion to encourage their Art: To whom alſo the Evening was kind, in being very Calm, and ſeem'd to reward their Art with a ſeaſonable opportunity of performance; which was done indeed with ſuch Excellence, that they roſe to ſo Prodigious a pitch as to be ſeen, and broak with ſuch loud noiſe as to be heard, and ſhin'd with ſo bright a Luſter as to give Day in and through all the Streets of *London*.

Written by R. Lowman.

Printed by N. Thompſon *at the Entrance into the* Old-Spring-Garden *near* Charing-Croſs. 1685